Demand for copper

400. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that the demand for copper has come down recently;

if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and

the steps being taken to boost demand of copper both in domestic and foreign markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES *(DR.* T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

Does not arise.

Government of India's thrust on power, infrastructure and automobiles sectors, reduction of import duty on finished copper products and copper concentrate have increased the consumption of copper in domestic market.

Scheme for minority districts

401. SHRI MAHMOOD A.MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched a scheme worth Rs. 3,780 crores for 90 minority concentrated districts;

(b) if so, the details and salient features of the scheme; and

(c) the steps taken to enforce and implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) Amulti-sectoral development programme for 90 minority concentration districts has been formulated and is awaiting approval. The programme has been designed to address the 'development deficits' mainly on improving the socio-economic and basic amenities parameters of these districts.

Projects for Minorities

402. SHRIJESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

whether Government has set up an expert panel consisting of Union Ministries and States on effective implementation of its aggressive minority welfare agenda as identified by the 15 point programme On Sachar Committee's suggestion on muslim backwardness;

if so, the steps the panel has taken so far;

whether this panel would evolve the extent of development benefits acquiring to socio-religious communities for welfare programmes;

if so, whether this panel has already received the report about implementation by the Central Committees and States; and